

## SWINDLING POOR WOMEN.

Mail Order Shark Got Caught in the Nets of Federal Law.

Those who bite and are bitten are many and widely distributed. Recently a man was arrested by federal authorities in an Oregon town on the technical charge of misusing the mails to defraud. He was a mail order genius, also a crook of perfect proportions. He had figured it out, he said, that mail order advertising is so popular as to tempt the unwary, particularly the ignorant unwary, almost anywhere, from Massachusetts to Arizona—effete east and frontier.

Accordingly this enterprising person advertised that for the small sum of a dollar he would send material and instructions for making a dozen waists. The completed waists were to be returned to him, or, rather, to the high sounding "company" under the title of which he traveled, through the mails. Upon receipt of the dozen waists the maker would receive \$3.60. A waist could be made in a few minutes, the advertisement said, by any woman.

Thousands of unsuspecting women sent in their dollars to this mail order advertiser. As a matter of course, practically all of them were poor women, most of them pitifully poor, who were willing to invest a hard earned and much needed dollar in the expectation of getting nearly \$4 in return. The replies and the dollars came in from Maine and Florida, from Seattle and San Diego, from all over the country and even from Canada. This mail order shark accepted Canadian money without protest. Any sort of money looked good to him.

And he accepted the waists, too, but did not pay for them. Instead he wrote back that the work was unsatisfactory and suggested that the women send a dollar for a sample waist, so that they could see just exactly how the sewing was to be done and thereby learn how to earn much money in the future. In every instance the work was unsatisfactory. Certainly. That was the game. Some few of the poor women sent another good dollar after the first one, but most of them, it is pleasant to say, had sense enough to know that they had been bitten by a shark and did not need another bite to make sure of it.

Somebody complained, and Uncle Sam pounced down upon this mail order genius and put him in jail.

Now, the moral is easy. Nearly any one of these women by a little looking about could have found work at waist making right at home, where they would have been sure of prompt and bona fide acceptance of their good work and prompt pay, according to the agreement. But instead of doing that they were caught by the cutely worded little mail order ad, and thousands of poor women would be caught yet if Uncle Sam had not caught the catcher.

## TOWN PHILOSOPHER'S TALK.

He Expatiates on Feed For Towns That Tend to Anemia.

"So long as people continue to hold the theory that distance lends enchantment to a bargain, just as it does to a view," remarked the town philosopher, "just so long will the local merchants suffer for lack of trade and the town remain stunted because it is not fed sufficiently to insure its proper growth. The food of a community is cash. That's a solid food, but highly necessary to make a community strong and vigorous. Dollars are easily digested. The community appetite is always normal, and if you keep on shipping your dollars out by money order or bank check to distant points to buy things you could buy right here at home with equal advantage or better this town will stay hungry and increase in gauntness.

"I know towns," the philosopher continued, "that are so lean because of this underfeeding, due to mail order competition, that their bones stick out and are visible to the naked eye. If you want to starve your home place and stunt its growth so that when it comes to a mature age it will be as puny and sickly as a youth who has smoked seven packages of cigarettes every day since he was fourteen, just continue to feed the town's legitimate food—the dollars produced here—to the voracious maw of the mail order concerns away off yonder. But if you want your town to be healthy and happy and look fat and prosperous, with good red blood in its veins, patronize the home merchant, the home manufacturer, the home tailor, doctor, dentist, printer, etc., every time you have a dollar to spend. Feed your dollars to your neighbors and they will reciprocate in kind."

## Fines if Paper Is Loose on Streets.

The Philadelphia council's highway committee has agreed on an ordinance which if passed by councils will make every householder liable to a fine of \$5 if waste paper and other light materials are not placed in separate receptacles from ashes. Director of Public Works Stearns and Chief Benson of the bureau of highways have given their sanction to the ordinance, the object of which is to prevent the waste paper and other house refuse from being blown about the streets. The ordinance will go into effect early in the new year.

## Great Aid to a Town.

One of the liveliest commercial clubs in the state of Kansas is at Arkansas City. It is results that count, and the club seems to be getting results. There is nothing so beneficial to a town, be it large or small, as a harmonious working together of its business men for the whole good of the place.

## INDOOR ICE SKATING.

Cracks to Compete in Pittsburg and Cleveland Jan. 25-30.

## ALL EYES ON EDMUND LAMY

Great Things Expected of Saranac Lake Boy, Who Showed Wonderful Form Last Season—Woodward Sutphen Will Be Hard to Beat.

A healthy revival of interest in one of the greatest of winter sports, ice skating, has been brought about by the cessation of hostilities between the Amateur Athletic union and the other bodies that were trying to govern the steel blade artists. The Amateur Athletic union found the chestnut too hot and let it drop back into the fire last



EDMUND LAMY, CHAMPION AMATEUR SKATER.

year, whereupon the various other claimants combined and formed an association bearing the high sounding name of International Skating Union of the United States and Canada. This association gave out the list of championship meets recently, and both Pittsburg and Cleveland have drawn their share, the international indoor event to be held in Pittsburg and the national indoor championship in Cleveland during the week of Jan. 25-30.

As a result of the renewed interest, many clubs throughout the country have become very active, and at this date the men are rounding into fine condition, they having been training for some time at the various rinks. Thus when the big carnivals come off every competitor will be on edge, and there should be such racing as has never been witnessed before.

The skater upon whom all eyes will be focused is Edmund Lamy of the Saranac Lake (N. Y.) Skating club. This eighteen-year-old boy showed such speed and form last season that many there were who pronounced him the greatest skater of his years that they would ever see.

He won everything, broke a number of excellent records and gave promise of setting up an entire new list of standards as soon as he had developed. This year he has been moving better than ever, and there is every reason to believe that some sensational performances will be credited him before the season closes.

Another crack who will be seen in the championships is Woodward Sutphen, the one and three mile United States title holder. Sutphen is a coming man and a game competitor, which means that he will be hard to beat.

He and Ollie Wood and Herb Earl will probably be the trio to represent the Saranac Skating club. Wood is a brother of the famous Morris Wood, now a professional, and the latter says of him that when he gets over his fright he will give Lamy a race at almost any distance.

The New York Athletic club has a strong, well balanced team, which Walter Lee, the champion fancy diver, has been chosen to captain. Lee has gathered around him E. A. Taylor, G. Lyman, J. J. Miller, W. Smith, A. Sarony and E. Schultheis and intends making a great showing for the Mercury foot. Taylor does not know many better indoors and is said to be the only man to have won a championship while Morris Wood was skating.

Lyman, Sarony and Schultheis are all three good, reliable men, and Miller is a youngster who will bear watching. He is a bit green still, but the speed is there.

The Wanderers expect to send to the carnivals in both Pittsburg and Cleveland a well known trio of old timber—Phil Kearney, C. Granger and W. Ingold—who may not be of the Lamy caliber, but who know the game from A to Z, and so manage to win now and then and can always be relied upon to furnish good sport.

Verona Lake, N. J., home of David Slayback, the czar of skating, is to send an A1 team to both cities. The four best performers mentioned are Sadeback, McCrow, Williams and Paliser.

## MANY AFTER JOHNSON

Would Be Title Chasers Want Chance at Conqueror of Burns.

## HAS-BEENS COME TO LIFE.

Gus Ruhlin, Tom Sharkey, Bob Fitzsimmons, Bill Squires and Many Others Challenge the New Champion at Long Range.

Much better than the sounding of the trump of Gabriel, as far as bringing dead boxers to life, was the big money hung up for the Johnson-Burns championship battle at Sydney, Australia. From all parts of the country—the whole world, in fact—the long buried and almost forgotten bruisers are shaking off their shrouds, giving up good jobs and getting their lungs in shape by howling challenges at Johnson.

Each declares that he is willing and able to beat the big colored man; that he will not demand \$30,000, as did Tommy Burns, but would be willing to make the match if the stakes were fairly divided. There is also a lot of hot air about side bets. These run up close to a million in the aggregate.

While all these challenges are finding their way into print the one man in the world that the sporting men think has a splendid chance of defeating Johnson—retired champion Jim Jeffries—is staying at home and repeating that he is through with the fighting game forever and that he would not enter the ring with any man in the world even if he received \$50,000 for his end of the purse.

Tom Sharkey, once a near champion, but far from "near" after Jim Jeffries had caved in a few of his ribs, was the first to say that he wants to fight Johnson. Sharkey does not really care to re-enter the ring, but to take the championship from a black man he will sacrifice his time, business and feelings. It is heroic on his part. He talks as though there could be no slip-up in his plans and feels so sure that he will bet from \$5,000 to \$10,000 on the side—that is, he says he will. You know Thomas was always strong for betting.

Clark Ball, one time manager of Fitzsimmons, John L. Sullivan and other lights of the ring, wants to back Marvin Hart to win the title. Ball honestly says that he is not certain that Hart could win, but thinks that the Louisville man has as good a right to fight Johnson as any one else. He seems to be about right in that—just as good a right and just as much chance.

So sure is Hart that he can get a match with Johnson that he has turned down an offer of \$200 per month to get John E. Madden in shape by boxing with him daily. There is no talk of a side bet here.

Mike Schreck, the German heavyweight that Jim Corbett touted as the coming champion of the world, is also anxious for a crack at the new champion. Although he has been defeated many times, Schreck claims he has never trained, but surely would were he matched to meet Johnson. He also talks of "unlimited" backing.

Next comes Gus Ruhlin. Ruhlin is more modest in his demands. The Akron giant says that Sharkey has a wonderful nerve to think that he is the only man in the business that has a right to fight Johnson and suggests that he and Sharkey fight to decide who gets the honor.

Among the many challenges hurled at the dusky champion is one from Bob Fitzsimmons, now in London doing a daily vaudeville stunt. According to recent reports, the attendance has been very small, so foxy "Rube Robert" thought a little free advertising at the expense of Johnson would boom the show.

Others that are there with challenges are "Philadelphia Jack" O'Brien "Boshter Bill" Squires and Jim Barry.

The only one that has a chance, as far as the experts believe, is Sam Langford, the colored light heavyweight, and he is in line.

Those still to be heard from are Jack Munroe, Gunner Moir, Jim Roche, Peter Maher, Mike Morrissey, Herr Placke, Joe Rogers, Steve O'Donnell, Con Coughlin, Jabber Carey and Jim Stewart.

## WINTER BALL TALK

Billy Sullivan is mentioned as the probable manager of the Chicago Americans in case Fielder Jones really does quit baseball.

Catcher Kleinow says the New York Americans' new second baseman, Gardner, is a second Johnny Evers. This will be good news for Manager Stallings.

Not wishing to interfere with the inaugural proceedings in Washington on March 4, Connie Mack will not start south with his Philadelphia Americans until March 10.

Baseball is so popular in Mexico that a Mexican national league has been formed. Six clubs comprise the body, the players being mostly from our minor league clubs.

The New York Nationals are said to have grabbed a prize package in Billy O'Hara, the best run getter of the Eastern league. Experts say he is sure to make good in any company.

Hughey Jennings says brains are needed in base running. Quite likely the Tigers' boss is correct, but the same gray matter is not out of place in batting, pitching or even carrying a bat bag.

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